PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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From Brooklyn to Kiev

SMASH ALL IMPERIALISTS!

CHALLENGE
Ukraine Invasion means Fight Imperialist WAR!
Black, White, Asian, Latin Unite!
FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!
TURN IMPERIALIST WAR INTO CLASS WAR!
WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
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BROOKLYN, February 26—On a weekend afternoon in Flatbush, workers heard the chants of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) as war exploded on the European continent. "Asian, Latin, Black and white! Workers of the world, unite!" These words are now even more important to workers in Brooklyn to Kyiv to Yemen to Haiti. While workers from Haiti strike for increased wages in the bosses' sweatshops, workers from Yemen live and die under U.S. made missiles and bombs, Ukrainian and Russian soldiers and civilians are fighting and dying to decide which bosses earn the right to exploit workers in Ukraine.

Attacks on workers are ramping up throughout the world. More than 20 members and friends of PLP chanted and marched in solidarity with our working-class sisters and brothers all over the world. We expressed anti-imperialist and internationalist politics and brought a message of revolutionary hope.

Not the nonsense coming from the mouths of local and national politicians and liberal apologists for capitalism who preach about equity and then stab workers in the back.

Making revolution through protracted struggle

PLP has been a presence in this neighborhood, especially over the past year. The oppression and murder of workers from Haiti is felt in Flatbush, where a large number of immigrant workers live and work. Many send money and supplies regularly to family members suffering under the control of U.S. imperialists. In Brooklyn, workers suffer from slumlords, racist cops, and say-everything-do-nothing politicians. Capitalists and their cronies work to convince workers to become cynical of fighting for change and cynical of each other.

PLP's regular presence in the community is the antidote to these vicious lies. During our rally, a worker with a young child joined us and marched, yelling out "we will be back!" Another worker told us that we need "to be out here all the time because the suffering isn't just overseas, it's here." As we march, as we distribute CHALLENGE, we build confidence in the international working class to one day overthrow this vicious racist imperialist system. We build confidence to build a communist world- one without nations, borders, and war.

Building internationalism is key to our plan

Each corner of the busy intersection where we rallied had PLP members distributing CHALLENGE. It was an opportunity to talk with workers. The war in Ukraine may seem far away, workers are suffering everywhere. Many of the workers who took the paper commented on how workers fight to survive while the top dogs benefit from capitalist war. Many workers in Flatbush work for transit and in healthcare. Those essential workers took the brunt of the pandemic at the start and any suffering they experience is now long forgotten by the bosses. Many of these workers are Black and many are women. This exposes the racism and sexism of capitalism and will be an Achilles heel for the bosses' plans to convince us to fight in their wars. It is our job to make that contradiction clear to workers and to convince them to join us to turn the guns around and fight for communism instead of bosses' profits.Workers demand minimum wage: only HOPE is revolution ✪

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

NYC Mayor Eric Adams, the face of liberal fascism

New York City Mayor Eric Adams' move to roust homeless people from the subways while slashing $615 million from services for their care is a declaration of state terror against the working class. Each time ex-cop Adams dons his New York Police Department (NYPD) gear to announce another new policy, he exposes his allegiance to the same racist system that used police to brutalize him as a Black teenager in the 1970s, dropped a bomb on Black workers in Philadelphia in the '80s, and has assaulted countless Black workers and youth in the decades since. CHALLENGE has repeatedly pointed out that liberal capitalist bosses and their stooges are the greatest dangers to the international working class. Given the current wave of identity politics, class traitors like Adams may be the most dangerous of all.

In response to a recent surge of antiracist protests against global police terror and to reformist calls to "Defund the Police," the capitalist rulers are using Black mayors like Adams, Chicago's Lori Lightfoot, and Newark's Ras Baraka to whip workers back in line. Like U.S. President Joe Biden, Lightfoot has called for more funding for the cops. In his first budget, Adams cut most city departments by three percent but maintained funding for New York's police and promised to "redeploy" more cops on the street. He also promised to reinstate the plainclothes units that were dissolved in 2020 after instigating "a disproportionate number" of fatal police shootings in Black and Latin neighborhoods (New York Times, 6/15). One of the units' members was the racist monster Daniel Pantaleo, who murdered Eric Garner in Staten Island in 2014.

Adams' role is to turn militant fighters into passive voters, to funnel rebellious Black and Latin youth into the school-to-prison pipeline, and to help build a multicultural patriotic movement for the bosses' next big war. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) says that multiracial faces in high places are a dead end for our class! To improve workers' lives and build a society without racism, sexism, or imperialist slaughter, we must organize a mass communist movement through antiracist class struggle. The only solution is a communist revolution!

Liberal fascism rises with inter-imperialist rivalry

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a clear sign of sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry. As the crisis of capitalism deepens and China, Russia, and the U.S. head closer to global conflict, the U.S. bosses know they must build fascism to coerce workers into following their plans for war.

In their drive to build a multiracial imperialist machine, the Big finance capital Fascists use both the carrot and the stick. The carrot is the myth that a "democratic" capitalist system has workers' best interests at heart, even if certain sections of the working class must be sacrificed along the way. The stick—the criminal injustice system, the bosses' kkkops and kkkourts—works to criminalize Black, Latin, and immigrant workers and youth. In places like Eric Adams' New York, it's also used to bludgeon the homeless.

Unfortunately, many workers have been won to an anti-working class perspective and support these attacks. They have failed to learn history's lesson: Fascist policies that target the most vulnerable and super-exploited among us are ultimately used against the entire working class. In fact, the biggest criminals—by far—are the capitalist bosses. The most dangerous gangs are the cops, who kill more than one thousand workers each year (Washington Post, 3/22).

Once a cop, always a cop

Upon declaring his candidacy for mayor, Adams became the darling of the liberal bosses, with an endorsement from billionaire former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and donations from the Rockefeller family and major landlords and real estate developers (NYT, 11/2/21). Three weeks after he was sworn in, Adams seized on a relatively minor rise in street crime to put out his "Blueprint to End Gun Violence." More than 230 leaders of the Big Fascist camp—including Chase Bank CEO Jamie Dimon, Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, and Tony Utano, president of Transit Workers Union Local 100—were quick to sign a letter of support (nyc.gov, 1/31).

Designed to stoke fears that divide workers, Adams' blueprint calls for rolling back bail reforms and allowing judges to determine a defendant's "dangerousness" in deciding whether to grant bail. Given the racism that infects the court system, studies say this measure will push thousands of Black youth through the prison doors (Slate, 1/28). The mayor's plan also calls for expanding the use of fascist surveillance technology, including facial recognition software - a racist tool that consistently generates disproportionate numbers of false positives for Black workers, and particularly for Black women (MIT Technology Review, December 2020).

Last year, when disgraced former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo used the Covid-19 pandemic to terrorize the homeless, the Urban Justice Center pointed out: "The rules are not about 'safeguarding public health' and ensuring that essential workers are 'able to maintain social distancing,' but rather are about permanently excluding homeless persons from the subway system" (Gothamist, 2/21). In a city notorious for its lack of affordable housing or safe shelters, the liberal bosses are endorsing Adams' use of health care workers to crack down on homeless workers, most of whom are Black. According to the Coalition for the Homeless, "the large majority of unsheltered homeless New Yorkers are people living with mental illness or other severe health problems." Adams is taking a page from the German Nazis, who targeted workers with mental and physical illnesses for sterilization and extermination.

Only communist revolution will keep us safe

In the summer of 2020, Progressive Labor Party proudly joined the millions of workers who protested the police lynching of George Floyd. As we fought side by side with many friends, we also struggled with them to see the limits of reforms under capitalism. Body cameras and "redeployments" won't put an end to racist police terror. The bosses need police terror to intimidate and divide the working class and hold on to state power. Racist terror will end only when the working class seizes state power through communist revolution and creates a society without money or profits. Only then can we do away with cops and their murderous brutality, once and for all.

In *Road to Life*, A.S. Makarenko documents how the Soviet working class set up schools for homeless students who'd joined gangs. The book shows how through collective struggle, these young workers were developed into leaders of the Soviet Union. This is just one example of what workers can accomplish after taking state power. Building the Party through all of our struggles will bring us closer to that reality.✪

Transit workers bridge struggles with miners

BALTIMORE, February 19—Transit workers are in multiracial solidarity with their Alabama sisters and brothers who have been on strike since April of 2021. Our locale, learning from the Party's efforts last year, continued this solidarity by demonstrating at Metro locations. Progressive Labor Party strives to organize millions to smash the wage system.

Win or lose their strike, the coal miners have demonstrated once again the crucial leadership of Black workers and women, and also the dangers of relying on liberal misleaders like the rotten sellout United Mine Workers of America president, Cecil Roberts.

Their fightback has been a model of multiracial unity for workers across the U.S. and the world. They show us the road to communist revolution, where a united international working class smashes racism, sexism, nationalism and imperialism with communism once and for all!

Support striking miners, fight for communism

Dare to struggle, dare to win!

The workers in the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 voted "YES" to support the 1,000 multiracial Warrior Met coal miners who have been on strike fighting scabs and other management attacks for almost one year (see box). They also donated $2,500 to the strikers. Readers who would like to support the UMWA strike can donate to https://paypal.me/UMWAStrikePantry

ATU 689's support and donation to the UMWA strike fund is a reform win for the miners. Today's demonstration is a small but revolutionary win for the international working class.

Following the communist principle of relying directly on the working class, we distributed CHALLENGE and flyers about the strike to about 75 Metro workers at the Silver Spring, MD and Ballston, VA Metro locations.

Our strike-support signs and our boldness helped get the word out in support of the striking miners and called for international working class communist revolution.

The world's capitalists today are arming themselves to the teeth to defend their empires, with new wars erupting such as in Ukraine.

Bringing multiracial fightback home

Since last summer, PLP has sent members and friends to Alabama to support the strikers (see previous editions of CHALLENGE). A new leader from the DC/Baltimore Party who made this trip quickly saw the will of the UMWA workers and the greed of the Warrior Met Coal bosses. She returned determined to raise more support for this militant multiracial strike. Her report to the collective led to this month's actions and ongoing efforts to support the miners

Miners: key to basic industries, revolution

Warrior Met Coal is the leading U.S.-based producer and exporter of metallurgical coal for the global steel industry. The miners are demanding higher wages, more time off, and reduced health care costs. These demands are reasonable -- the coal industry is one of the most notable high-risk fields where the exploited laborers risk life and limb meeting the demands of greedy bosses.

The strike began April 1, 2021, as over 1,000 multiracial miners of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Union went on strike after Warrior Met Coal refused to meet the miner's just demands. The bosses brought in nonunion workers, or scab labor, to replace the strikers and drag out negotiations hoping the strike would break.

Almost a year into the strike, the miners are holding strong, with many Black strikers on bullhorns calling out scab workers who are crossing the picket line with cop support. It is a sight to see with Black and white workers continuing to organize and demonstrate solidarity during this strike. Such actions are a building block for workers' power, which with struggle will lead to building our Party and revolution against capitalism under the leadership of the PLP.

Smash borders, build international fightback

From Tuscalooosa County, Alabama to Ukraine to Somalia to Yemen, with the support of the working class and additional mobilizing efforts to support fightbacks like these miners, it's clear that the bosses will never work in the best interests of the working class These actions show the need for and logic of revolution, since only a communist society will meet the needs of the working class. We have plans of mobilizing at additional stations. We will not stop exposing the greedy bosses at Warrior Met Coal and calling on the international working class to join PLP and smash Warrior Met, racism, imperialist wars and capitalism once and for all! JOIN US✪

Retirees at the ready

Rx: eradicate the whole damn system

NEW YORK CITY, February 14—Despite bitterly cold weather, 200 retired city workers demonstrated today against the racist, profit-driven privatization of their health insurance. This fight against this latest attack by the bosses on our health reflects our anger at this first opening shot in the reduction of health coverage. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) points out that the entire healthcare system is driven by the profit motive. From medical practices to hospitals to labs to the pharmaceutical industry, capitalism determines who has access to good health.

Communism: the best health insurance for workers

If we're serious about optimizing our collective health, we need to be fighting to build the mass international PLP and the struggle for communist revolution.

Only in a communist system, run for and by the working class, can there be a healthy life with less stress and alienation. There will be opportunities for exercise and a healthy diet. Quality healthcare will be provided equally to all based solely on need.

Racist unequal society= Racist unequal healthcare

Speaker after speaker blasted the change from traditional government-run Medicare to a for-profit Medicare (dis)Advantage plan run by insurance companies. Most expressed support for universal single-payer Medicare, a government plan without insurance company middlemen sucking out profits.

So far, between 45,000 to 50,000 retirees have opted out of this new plan. They have chosen, under duress, to pay about $2,300 per person per year to keep the plan they have today. Those who have made this choice are mainly higher-income white workers. Lower income, disproportionately Black and Latin, retirees will be forced into the new plan if and when it goes into effect.

Racism also means that segregated living patterns continue to mean harder access to quality health facilities generally not found in predominantly Black and Latin working class neighborhoods. The coronavirus pandemic in less than two years slashed three years of life expectancy from Black and Latin workers in the U.S. (NYT, 7/21/21).

But ultimately, racism and racist inequalities drag down standards across the board to ensure that most workers receive inadequate health care, as evidenced by decreasing life expectancies for white workers as well. We need to recognize racism as capitalism's chief attack against the working class, and fight for multiracial unity and the Party as our strongest weapons to fight back.

Don't rely on politicians, courts or capitalism

Asking newly elected Mayor, the Black ex-police captain Eric Adams, to have a heart on Valentine's Day is an example of wishful and misguided thinking on the part of the liberal organizers of the rally. Big Fascist Adams has already shown whose side he is on (see editorial, page 2). One of his first actions was to cut all city services except for the police and corrections. The corporate-sponsored Citizens Budget Commission called these plans "important, welcome, and refreshing initial steps in the right direction"(NYT, 2/16).

The court case initiated by rank-and-file retirees has delayed the privatization plan, but is unlikely to succeed in stopping it from taking effect at some time. The court is unlikely to buck the trend toward Medicare privatization. Throughout the U.S., retiree health benefits are being moved from publicly run Medicare to privately run Medicare (dis)Advantage plans steering profits to insurance companies tied to financial capitalists. Over 41 percent of all Medicare enrollees are now in such (dis)Advantage plans (Chatis group, 2/21). That is an astonishing 28.5 million people and growing (Axios, 1/22).

Retired New York City workers have shown over the last year that they won't watch this racist attack go down without fighting back. As we say, we are retired but we haven't expired. Learning lessons in this struggle, we can help build the movement for communist revolution!✪

Haiti

Workers demand minimum wage: only HOPE is revolution

From Alabama to Haiti strikes are schools for communism.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Feb. 27—For more than three weeks, thousands of workers and subcontractors in the SONAPI (National Industrial Park Company) "free trade zone," accompanied by workers from other sectors and students, have taken to the streets here to say that they can no longer live on the poverty wages paid by the bosses. The workers are demanding an increase to the minimum wage and better working conditions, including an end to the special exploitation of women workers. U.S. and local bosses—Dominican and Haitian alike—profit exponentially off of the national barriers that separate workers from uniting together against their unsustainable working conditions. Our Party, Progressive Labor Party (PLP), continues to support the workers in their immediate demands, marching alongside them in the streets and engaging in discussions about the need to build a revolutionary communist party that will lead workers around the world to throw off the chains of racist capitalist exploitation.

Women in the garment industry help lead the fight

The protesting workers are undeterred by the generalized wave of terror in Haiti unleashed by gangs and kidnappers paid by the bosses (far better than workers are paid). They are also undeterred by the police, armed agents of the State, with their tear gas, beatings, and bullets (a journalist was killed and three workers savagely beaten, including a pregnant woman on 2/23). Recently they disrupted traffic on the "airport road" (leading to the capital's busy international airport) where the majority of subcontracting factories are concentrated—the center of exploitation of modern capitalism. More than 10,000 workers, mainly women, toil here in garment and small parts sweatshops owned by foreign capital and sustained by the Haitian bourgeoisie. Throughout Haiti, there are 50,000 – 80,000 workers in these sweatshops.

The workers are demanding an increase from 500 HTG (Haitian gourdes, US$4.17) per day to 1,500HTG (US$12.50) per day. Yet even this is insufficient. According to the U.S.-based Solidarity

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Inflamed Ukraine

World war ahead, smash imperialist butchers

As we go to press, the Russian capitalist bosses have invaded Ukraine. It's impossible to know how this war will ultimately play out, but we do know that small wars can lead to larger wars, particularly in volatile times. The war in the Ukraine is a nightmare brought about by the rivalry among the U.S., Russian, and Chinese capitalist rulers. There are no good sides among these imperialist butchers. Our class, the working class, must take on all bosses. We must turn the imperialists' wars for profit into war to liberate our class with communist revolution.

As the old liberal world order disintegrates, capitalism has come to be defined by constant invasions and wars--from the Middle East, where the big imperialists have fought to control the region's oil, to Africa, where capitalists big and small compete for control of vital resources.

U.S. and Russian bosses murder the working class

The racism of the U.S. and European bosses focuses the world on the war in Ukraine. U.S. and European reporters visibly express concern for people in Ukraine while the daily death rained down by U.S. imperialism on the working class in the Middle East is normalized and blamed on the victims (LA Times, 3/1). But on the scale of workers murdered for bosses' power, the invasion of Ukraine is more the same than different from the invasions of Iraq or Afghanistan by the U.S. bosses. Putin is no different than the Bushes, Barack Obama or Bill Clinton in his willingness to slaughter workers for their billionaire masters. While the cluster bombing of civilians in Ukraine exposes the Russian bosses (once again) as war criminals, the U.S. is unmatched for the callous slaughter of workers and children.

Since 2001, the U.S. bosses have dropped 326,000 bombs and missiles on the working class in the Middle East. (Australian National Review, 2/28). Clinton's Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, infamously stated that the killing of 500,000 Iraqi children by U.S. sanctions "was worth it"(Salon, 5/11/16).

Over 500,000 people have been killed directly by weapons in the U.S. invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. The number of deaths from starvation, illness and lack of medical care is far greater than that. (U.S. News, 9/10/21). All this brings the holocaust of workers in Iraq and Afghanistan committed by the U.S. bosses to over 1.5 million people. If Putin is supposed to be "unhinged" (Business Insider, 2/28) what does that make Clinton or Albright or Obama?

Smash imperialism with communist revolution

Russia's invasion of Ukraine was triggered by the U.S. bosses' expanding NATO to Russia's front door. Seeing the U.S. empire declining, the Russian bosses are pushing back. The U.S. bosses, while weakening, are not without power. They have gotten the European bosses to join with them in economic sanctions against Russia that is sharpening the conflict. The result is a situation where direct war between the imperialists is becoming more likely. Since both sides have nuclear weapons, nuclear war becomes a possibility as well.

Beyond the U.S and Europe, the Chinese bosses, having given tacit approval to Russia's invasion, are also getting ready for bigger war. One possible outcome is that Russia is economically and militarily pushed even closer to China. That would give the Chinese ruling class an advantage as they prepare for war with the U.S.

This is the nature of inter-imperialist rivalry. Nation states and capitalism are killing our class. We must get rid of capitalism and a society based on nations. We are one class around the globe; it only benefits the bosses when we are divided. We must not be misled or deceived by the capitalists' calls for "freedom" or "democracy." Whether "democracies" or "autocracies," all countries in the world today are capitalist dictatorships. The current government of Ukraine, being hailed by the U.S press as a bastion of democracy, came to power by the U.S overthrowing a democratically elected pro-Russian government. In that coup the U.S. bosses partnered with pro-U.S. avowed Ukranian Nazis(Guardian, 4/30/14). That's why the current Ukrainian military has openly Nazi units(OpIndia, 2/28). The racism of the Ukrainian ruling class was on full display as Black students trying to leave the country were beaten by Ukrainian soldiers and not allowed on trains(NY Times, 3/2).

In this period, where capitalism is descending into a new level of hell, it is imperative for our class and our Progressive Labor Party to forge a new way forward by smashing the rotten profit system with communist revolution. While changing the course of imperialist war is a monumental task, it is something our class has done before. We must attack head-on the nationalism and racism being spread among our class by the bosses. The working class in Russia is showing bravery by protesting the latest inter-imperialist conflict in the streets. The same cannot be said for our class in the United States and Europe, where large numbers have fallen in line with U.S. imperialism and the U.S. rulers' slogans supporting the Ukrainian bosses. To protest the Russian bosses' war in Ukraine without attacking and exposing U.S. imperialism is a racist denial of the mass murder in the Middle East and around the world. Most dangerous of all, it misleads workers to support the U.S. bosses' attempts to prepare for the next world war. In everything we do, we must be clear that the only way out of this nightmare is to build a revolutionary communist movement of the working class that smashes capitalism with workers' power.

Review of *College Behind Bars*

Let's add revolution to the curriculum

There is an interesting documentary called College Behind Bars that explores a college program for incarcerated workers called the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI). The program illustrates the contradictions between reform and revolution in the criminal injustice system under capitalism.

This program is helpful to the incarcerated workers who can enroll but it also sends the message that they have to be rehabilitated so they can reenter society. As you listen to their stories, it's clear that it was poverty, racism, lack of health care, lousy education, and all the evils of capitalism that led these young men and women to commit the "crimes" that are the reasons for their incarceration.

At the same time, capitalists commit crimes against the working class and go free. Recently there was a fire at an apartment building in New York City with numerous safety violations that the city and the owners ignored. Seventeen tenants died, including eight children. No one has been arrested or even charged for this racist crime. The real estate investors in this building included a member of Mayor Eric Adam's transition team. That's capitalism. The capitalists exploit and profit and the politicians serve and protect them. Crimes against property and the ruling class are prosecuted and punished, crimes against the working class are aided and abetted.

College Behind Bars= Prison Reform

The documentary shows how BPI aims to "educate" the incarcerated workers and then aim them toward working within the system to make improvements. As one participant said, "if we want a better world, then we must first change ourselves." But in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) we say the rebels in Ferguson were more truthful when they said: "the whole damn system has to go." If we want a better world, we need to organize and fight to overthrow the capitalist system. We need a communist revolution so that the working class can run the world. That's what communism is, a world run by and for the working class.

From this four-part documentary, it is immediately clear that BPI is a traditional college program.

The classes are rigorous. They read, analyze and write about Othello, Moby Dick, Plato, the Iliad and the Odyssey. The classes include Environmental Science, Calculus, Biology (genetics and evolution which requires three prior courses), Spanish, German, American Politics, Public Speaking, Art and Philosophy. They have a debate team that defeated Harvard. This shows the lie of capitalist education, that only some workers are hard working or smart enough to be college educated.

In New York State, there are 51,000 incarcerated men and 2,400 incarcerated women. BPI has 300 workers enrolled mostly in the Associate degree program and 37 in the Bachelor degree program. Nationwide almost 50 percent of incarcerated workers who are released get rearrested within three years. In the Bard program it's four percent. This reform, though helpful to those fortunate enough to enter the program, reveals that it is a band-aid on a rotten system of racist mass incarceration.

Story of a BPI participant

A friend was recently released after being imprisoned for over 30 years for a crime he did not commit. He was falsely accused of killing a cop. His frame-up was typical of the way racist cops still operate today. A woman who had a drug addiction and facing multiple charges was used as the main witness against him. She could barely walk, so the jury had to be cleared as this "witness" was brought in to lie. The racist cops, supported by the racist judge, were allowed to clear the courtroom because the addict could barely walk straight as they led her to the witness stand.

Members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) organized to defend him, but the racist court system defeated our campaign. He steadfastly declared his innocence which probably cost him quite a few extra years of incarceration, since Parole Boards want to hear incarcerated workers admit their crime and express remorse.

Eventually he got "lucky." He was moved to a prison where he applied and was accepted into college, a rehabilitation program through Bard College, Bard Prison Initiative (BPI).

The working class can and must run the world

Now, according to BPI, these incarcerated workers have reentered society. Some are working in nonprofits, in one case organizing for criminal justice reform. Some are finishing their Bachelor degrees and one is in a PhD program.

In PLP, we want more. These workers and millions around the world can and must run the world for the benefit of the working class. One of the incarcerated workers says that BPI "has great professors teaching you how smart you are" whereas right now we have a "dual education system, one for individuals who will rule and one for everyone else." Under communism we will incorporate all workers' skills and smarts to teach and learn from each other. Join PLP and help organize for a communist revolution. Power to the working class!✪

Communist revolution is the only HOPE for workers in Haiti

Continued from page 4

Center in 2019, a family of four (2 parents, 2 children) would need 1,750HTG (US$17.50) per day for the bare minimum. In 2021 money, that family would need 2,500HTG (US$21) per day (AyitiKonpeFache, chronicle #2). The government did offer a pittance this week; garment workers, for example, would receive 685HTG/day, (US$6.65) (Le Moniteur, 2/21). The workers won't accept that and a sharper struggle is anticipated in the coming days.

According to Section 137 of the Labor Code, each time inflation increases by more than 10 percent, the minimum wage must also increase. The current inflation rate is over 20 percent, yet the law remains unenforced because, as everyone knows, the capitalists own the State. The gang-up by State inaction and CSS slowness (Superior Council of Salaries, which publishes the guide to wages for different job categories) to decide on an increase in the minimum wage, and violent police repression makes it clear to workers that these forces work for the capitalist class, the enemy of all workers.

In a glaring contradiction, however, Réginald Boulos, a major player in the Haitian bourgeoisie, is for an increase in the minimum wage because he sells commodities locally (groceries, cars, etc) and he wants people to have money to spend that will go directly into his pocket. In addition, the imperialists play a big role in keeping the workers' wages low: a coup d'état against the Lavalas government

in 1991 when it proposed adjusting the minimum wage; USAID spent a reported $26 million to block another increase in 1996, just to mention a few instances.

H.O.P.E. law starves Dominican and Haitian workers alike

Garment and assembly shops here function under the U.S. government's HOPE (Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement) law, which benefits U.S. bosses by reducing or eliminating import and export taxes (raw materials and parts imported, finished goods exported). HOPE provides quotas for commodities produced, so when the bosses of Grupo M in neighboring Dominican Republic, for example, use up their quotas, they open factories in Haiti. Thus, low-wage Dominican workers (US$17/day) and even lower-wage Haitian workers (US$4.17/day) are exploited by the very same bosses—what better cause to build international solidarity!

This fight of the workers to improve their standard of living, essentially to take back from the bosses some of the value that they create through their labor, is unending. As soon as the bosses are forced by class struggle to give workers more, workers find that inflation has eaten up their increases. We have to raise workers' class consciousness, to see themselves as part of an international class with the same interests as workers everywhere, from the Dominican Republic and beyond. Only when we get off this merry-go-round of intense fightback for paltry reforms can we really be liberated from capitalist misery. Workers of the world, unite: we have nothing to lose but our chains. Join us✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Planting seeds of communism in the Black Student Union

As an up-and-coming revolutionary communist, I've taken to heart the need to infuse discussions about problems within my Black community with a clear and direct sentiment: this anti-gay, sexist, racist, system of capitalism is the true root of our problems. I managed to start that discussion within the Black Student Union (BSU) on my campus, which led to some interesting results.

We started our discussion with a current event, the sequence of bomb threats to HBCU's-no doubt intentional on the part of the racist perpetrators. One person, a young Black woman with a boisterous attitude, pointed out the obvious. It's no surprise to anyone, especially the Black community. She alluded to this country's history of othering [alienating] those responsible for its creation and "the white man's" cycle of hypocrisy in regards to slavery and freedom in the U.S. She ended by reaffirming that those in power will never truly have in mind the interests of Black, Latin, Asian, Indigenous, muslim, and immigrant workers.

This resonated with me so much that I asked the same question that I raised when I first joined BSU: Why do we, Black workers, subscribe to the electoral process when we know it was not built for us? Of course, multiple people chimed in with sentiments of civic duty and obligation to the sacrifices made during the Civil Rights Movement. I once again voiced my disapproval, which prompted another person to ask, "So what do you want? Communism?" which I responded to with an assured yes. This stirred the group for a moment, but I slowly managed to explain aspects of communism and Progressive Labor Party (PLP) that challenged their brainwashed notions.

I left the meeting with the same enthusiastic woman who expressed the most curiosity about communism. She clearly wanted to better understand how the concept of collectivity would be applied to those who commit crimes. Her dilemma was a final decision coming down to one person breaking a tie between two decisions. I told her that I appreciate her contemplation of such a serious issue and that I could not give her a set answer, as that would have to be dealt with in the moment in the higher phase of communism. We parted ways, and she left with a copy of CHALLENGE.

Since then, I've passed the paper around campus and have also discussed it with my roommate. I'm glad to say that I've become bolder in upholding the party's line when in political discussion, and I hope to continue including sharp, revolutionary concepts as a true alternative for the people around me that want real change.

Demonte Ward-Blake – Say His Name!

I participated in a press conference and rally in Largo, Maryland of over 30 antiracists that announced a $75 million lawsuit against Prince George's County (PG). The lawsuit was filed because cop Bryant Strong paralyzed Demonte Ward-Blake by slamming his head against the curb in 2019, making this former athlete a quadriplegic. Demonte, vulnerable in a wheelchair while outdoors, was later killed in a shooting. His family and lawyers spoke emotionally about the excessive murderous force used by cop Strong, who goes on trial in May for second degree assault and reckless endangerment. Members of Community Justice (CJ) also spoke of their horrid experiences with PG police, including a family member of William Green, shot and murdered by a cop while handcuffed and seated in a police car (CHALLENGE, 2/17/2019).

As a Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member and a CJ member, I was happy to see a strong turnout from CJ for this event. We promised each other to intensify our efforts around racist police brutality and fighting the system. The lawyers claimed that only these huge lawsuits can force change. I think, instead, that bold, mass, multiracial action can have a much bigger impact, and such actions can go beyond the limits of this vicious capitalist system. We must organize, organize, organize to build a revolutionary multiracial movement to end the capitalist system with its inherent racist and brutal character.

Union worsens; transit workers en route to multiracial unity

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has always said that winning for the working class is winning more workers to communist ideas and to fight for the antiracist, egalitarian society that humanity deserves. The reform struggles that we engage in today give the Party and our working-class friends the experience and the vision to ultimately run society in our collective interests.

The struggle to win workers to vote and strike against the racist contracts pushed by the Democrat mayors of Chicago and liberal union misleaders (see editorial, page 2) -- both Black and white -- opens the doors for us to win workers to communist ideas.

Just this past month, the workers of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) voted on and accepted one of its worst labor contracts ever. The CTA President (appointed by the Mayor) got a 33 percent raise while the workers got a 9.25 percent raise over four years broken up into 1 percent and up to 2.5 percent annually. Inflation is at its highest point in 40 years and even though workers were angry about the 33 percent raise given to the President of CTA, they voted to accept the contract. Out of 10,000 members only 3,253 voted. It was 2,432 for the contract and 1050 voted the contract down.

The antiracist Civil Rights Movement in the 20th century fought against Jim Crow and for Black workers to be hired in public transportation and the post office. As the workers at the CTA became a majority-Black workforce, the union members saw their wages, benefits and rights being taken away by the sellout union misleadership. The Black union officials in Chicago have done their job of selling the workers out to the CTA and Big Fascist Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

PLP has been involved in building the Chicago Transit Justice Coalition (CTJC). The CTJC is made up of members of Amalgamated Transit Union locals 241 and 308 as well as union members from other locals, and is building the fight against low-wage part time jobs and sellout unions. We have had Zoom meetings throughout the pandemic, some in-person meetings, a bowling party and close to a dozen rallies outside of bus garages, train terminals, and the union offices. Throughout, we are building stronger ties and friendships with each other.

CTJC led the fight against the latest contract, and has vowed to keep on fighting. Even though the voter turnout broke a record for being low and the contract has been accepted by the workers, more union members than ever have been calling for a strike and believe in the need for a strike!

In response to the contract fight, CTJC sent out the mass message, "There will be no progress without struggle," a reference to a quote from Black abolitionist leader Fredrick Douglass. The CTJC also explained that "our struggle is part of a greater, worldwide struggle against the billionaire bloodsuckers of the poor" and detailed plans to intensify the struggle against the sellout unions.

Members of PLP have been inspired by our friends in ATU Locals 241 and 308. We have faced racism from some union members, including Black nationalists and white racists who have tried to divide and silence the CTJC members on social media and during meetings.

CTCJ met and discussed how we will not allow racism to divide us. We will defend each other in words and deeds. Coworkers who do not belong to the CTJC spoke out against the racist posts and helped build more antiracist voices in our locals. The ATU does not want to build the fight against racism. Those of us in the Party and our friends do, and will fight for communist revolution as the only way to end racism and exploitation for good.

Red on the Radio calls out imperialism

On February 24, the day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I got on the "What's Going On" WBAI talk show at 7 a.m. to oppose their lies about how the U.S. was "isolationist" and that the Soviet Union supported Nazis before World War II.

On U.S. isolation, I asked about the 800 U.S. military bases in over 100 countries, U.S. missile submarines to Australia, 30,000 U.S. troops and missiles in South Korea, 40,000 U.S. troops and air bases in Japan, U.S. forces in Taiwan and the Philippines training them for war with China and ringing Russia with NATO missile bases for over 50 years.

On the lie about Soviet Union support of Nazis because of their non-aggression pact before World War II, I said the Soviet Union begged the U.S., England and France to join an attack on Germany when they invaded more countries and all the so-called "allies" refused because they wanted Germany to destroy the Soviet Union, the first workers' state. Germany needed the pact to avoid a dangerous two-front war and the Soviet Union was forced to make the pact to buy time to build its war industry behind the Ural Mountains from which they defeated the expected German invasion and won World War II by inflicting 80 percent of German military casualties.

I said World War II was a fight between the U.S., Germany and Japan over who would become top imperialist and the coming World War III is to determine the top-dog imperialist among the U.S., China and Russia and that workers should not become body bags for capitalist wars. There was also talk about how a World War III makes no sense, but I thought it made a lot of "cents" to the Wall Street military-industrial complex facing an economic crisis and the loss of U.S. world hegemony. However, I didn't get time to conclude "same enemy, same fight, workers of the world unite to smash imperialist war with communist revolution."

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Black communists in the Spanish Civil War

Oliver Law makes history fighting fascism

This is the second in the three-part series about Black communists in the Spanish Civil War. In the early 1930s the urban bourgeoisie (capitalists) of Spain, supported by most workers and many peasants, overthrew the violent, repressive monarchy to form a republic. In July 1936 the Spanish army, eventually commanded by Francisco Franco, later the fascist dictator, rebelled to re-establish the repressive monarchy. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy gave Franco massive military aid. The Western imperialist countries and the United States refused to help the Republic. Only Mexico and the then-socialist Soviet Union came to the Republic's aid, to try to stop fascism before it engulfed the world.

In 1936 the International Communist Movement, called the "Comintern," headquartered in the Soviet Union and led by Joseph Stalin, organized volunteers—mainly workers—from more than 60 countries into the "International Brigades" (IBs) to go to Spain to defend the Republic. But, in defending the Republic, they were defending capitalists. This was part of the united front against fascism, where communists united with so-called liberal capitalists against the fascist capitalists.

In the Progressive Labor Party we are now against any unity with capitalists. They all have to go and the working class must rule: that's communism.

If the working class is to seize and hold state power throughout the world, Black workers and their leadership is essential. Our class cannot destroy racism - the lifeblood of capitalism - without their leadership. The following continues that story.

Oliver Law was the first Black worker to lead an integrated military force in the history of the United States. Born in west Texas in 1900, he joined the Army in 1919, serving as a private in the Black 24th Infantry. After leaving the army, Law first worked in a cement plant, then moved to Chicago where he drove a cab. During the Great Depression he worked as a dockworker, became unemployed again, then eventually worked for the Works Project Administration. While unemployed, Law joined the International Labor Defense and in 1932, the Communist Party.

His political activities led to frequent run-ins with the Chicago Police Red Squad during one of which he was seriously beaten:

> *After several hours, ninety-nine of the prisoners were released. Fourteen were booked for "special questioning." Among this group was … Oliver Law, a Negro leader of the unemployed ... The fourteen were left in the big room … Nels [Kjar, a Communist Party leader] said, "This is a setup for a beating. Those Red Squad rats'll be here soon-…Just look out, don't fall for any proposals they make… If they divide us it'll be tougher for each of us.*
>
> *Five days later, 75,000 unemployed workers marched, demanding relief and unemployment insurance.…Oliver Law missed it; he was in the hospital because of the beating.*

Black military commander leading mostly white troops - a first

In 1937 Law was one of the earliest American volunteers to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigades and go fight against the fascists in Spain. Before leaving for Spain, Law was arrested while leading a rally protesting fascist Italy's invasion of Ethiopia. In Spain, his leadership ability and military experience were highly prized. He first served as Section Leader in the machine-gun company. Law was quickly promoted to company commander, then to Adjutant to the Battalion Commander, and finally to Battalion commander with the rank of captain.

While commanding the Abraham Lincoln Battalion on the fourth day of the Brunete Offensive, July 10, 1937, he was mortally wounded while leading an assault on Mosquito Ridge.

> *Sam Walter saw Oliver Law, our Black commander, wave the Americans over the top.… Sam grabbed his camera just for an instant and got a snapshot of Commander Law leading a predominantly white battalion into battle—the first time such an event ever took place in American history.*
>
> *Oliver was in the U.S. Army for six years-talented, lots of courage, but a Negro, so he left the Army still a private -- but in Spain, in six months he became commander of the Battalion with the rank of Captain … His sober attitude had made him close to the boys, but in death the link tightened-all his qualities of honesty, reliability, selflessness were now discussed. His character was a model to everyone.*

Thus Oliver had lived for seven years after the brutal beating at the hands of the Chicago Red Squad … While our fascists didn't get him, Hitler's friends got him. Someday, the working class of America will properly acknowledge the role this brave Negro Communist played in the fight for freedom.

[Sources: Steve Nelson, The Volunteers; albavalb.org]

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

U.S. imperialists prepare for war against Russian rivals

Foreign Affairs, 2/18– When Russia joined the ongoing civil war in Syria, it shocked the United States and its partners. Out of frustration, then President Barack Obama claimed that Syria would become a "quagmire" for Russia. Syria did not end up as a quagmire for Putin. Russia changed the course of the war, saving Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from impending defeat … Moscow has amassed greater regional clout … and retained a loyal partner in Assad for Russia's power projection.

If Russia achieves its political aims in Ukraine by military means, Europe will not be what it was before the war. Not only will U.S. primacy in Europe have been qualified; any sense that the European Union or NATO can ensure peace on the continent will be the artifact of a lost age. Instead, security in Europe will have to be reduced to defending the core members of the EU and NATO.

For the United States, a Russian victory would have profound effects on its grand strategy in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. First, Russian success in Ukraine would require Washington to pivot to Europe. This will be difficult in light of competing priorities, … a deteriorating relationship with China. But the interests at stake are fundamental. If Europe is destabilized, then the United States will be much more alone in the world.

Ukraine may be first battlefield in world war III, Taiwan may be second

The Economist, 2/26–Taiwan … is America's ninth-largest trading partner and a semiconductor superpower at the heart of global supply chains. Taiwan has long been valued by the United States as an alternative political model to … mainland [China]. Taiwan also sits at the nub of the western Pacific's "first island chain" and, under friendly management, offers a crucial buffer to Japan, America's main ally in the region, from Chinese threats. Losing Taiwan would mean the end of a security order in the region that America has led since the second world war, and ceding to China the role of the region's uncontested power.

Russia itself is an Asian power and has conducted joint naval drills with China, an increasingly close military partner … heightened tension between Russia and Japan looks set to become the norm. Ukraine's fires are already burning on the Asian shore.

Imperialists continue to slaughter workers in Yemen

Brookings, 2/1–The Houthis have won the war in Yemen, defeating their opponents in the civil war, the Saudis, who intervened in 2015 against them, and the United States which backed the Saudis. It is a remarkable accomplishment for a militia group with no air force or navy. It is also strikingly like Hezbollah's success story in Lebanon. Iran is a source of support, especially since the Houthis and Iranians share a common enemy in Saudi Arabia. The cost of the war to Yemenis is staggering. The United Nations Development Programme estimated in November that 377,000 Yemenis will have been killed by the conflict by the end of 2021, most indirectly and not in combat, 70% of them children under the age of five. The Saudi blockade of Yemen is a principal cause of the humanitarian catastrophe by denying food and medicine to the country.

Fascist cops shoot and kill workers in Port au Prince

Reuters,2/23–Haitian police on Wednesday opened fire on demonstrators demanding higher wages and killed a reporter, according to witnesses and a hospital official. Two other journalists were shot and wounded at the scene in Port-au-Prince, where hundreds of Haitians gathered to call for a higher minimum wage than the one approved this week by the government of Prime Minister Ariel Henry. A passing police vehicle fired at protesters. Dominique St Eloi, a union leader who was at the demonstration, said it was calm when police began shooting from the vehicle. The protesters on Wednesday were mostly from the garment sector, which exports finished products to U.S. retailers. Those workers received a 37% increase that took their wages to just under $7.50 a day - half what union leaders had demanded.

Women workers deserve communism,nothing less

March 8 is International Working Women's Day. The capitalist media stripped this holiday from its communist roots in order to push feminism, an ideology that blames men, instead of capitalism, for sexism.

Revolution, not representation

In the U.S., March 8 is used to prop up women politicians and women profiteers. As of last year, women make up just over a quarter of all members of the 117th Congress, "the highest percentage in U.S. history" (Pew Research Center, 01/21). Meanwhile, Black, Latin, and immigrant working class women continue to suffer the most under the extreme sexist conditions of this system– in all aspects of life. And Texas legislators are trying to outlaw abortion. What good is more representation in a system that that profits off of, depends on, and perpetuates sexism?

Born from class society, the sexist division of workers is a pillar in both maintaining and justifying this capitalist system. Like racism and nationalism, sexism keeps the capitalist bosses in power by dividing workers—in this case, by driving a wedge between working-class women and men. This generates superprofits for the bosses and society then assumes women will freely provide daily and generational reproduction of labor power.

Capitalist ideology reinforces the special oppression and exploitation of women. Capitalism teaches us that society is naturally unequal, that women are intrinsically nurturing. Communist history and leadership celebrates International WORKING Women's Day instead, highlighting the international efforts of working-class women leading fights to improve the material conditions of women and our class as a whole. Only working-class solidarity can build a movement against sexism.

Confront the dangers of feminism

Like all identity politics, the women's movement is a dead—and deadly—end for workers. It obscures the fact that capitalist society is driven by a fundamental conflict between the class that owns the means of production and the class that creates everything of value—between bosses and workers.

Feminism misleads women workers, in particular, by recruiting sell-out stooges like Hillary Clinton, Kamala Harris, and the late (and unlamented!) Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Black women workers' key in the class struggle

Women workers are still leading present day fights against sexist terror. The thousands of garment workers in Port Au Prince, Haiti are a case in point that offers leadership across borders for all workers. The mainly-women textile workers are calling for a minimum wage increase– $ 15 a day– from the power-hungry companies Nike, Levi Strauss, and Gap. Even if companies like Nike, with a net worth of $30.44 billion (statistica.com)pay workers in Haiti the $15 per hour rate that many U.S. workers demand, it would still be crumbs for the working class, and a drop in the bucket for garment bosses.

The women were met with police repression from fascist acting-Prime Minister Ariel Henry. Henry is in the pocket of U.S. imperialist bosses and pushed to squelch the workers' act of resistance immediately, no doubt knowing what a threat a victory for the workers would be to his capitalist regime.

However, this did not stop the working-class women from fighting back. Women workers who make up the majority of the workforce in the garment industry have the understanding that the imperialist bosses will never remove their racist boots off our necks and the only way to remove them is by force. The workers met again the next day, where violence intensified, injuring several, including one pregnant woman. This sexist, violent attack demonstrated that women are forced to work in dire conditions while pregnant and simultaneously being expected to perform unpaid labor as mothers. In a communist society, women, as all workers, will no longer be alienated from their labor or subject to the racist, sexist violence engendered by this system. We will smash the material basis for sexism: capitalism.

In a system designed to prioritize profits over people, imperialist corporations exploit with absolute impunity one section of workers in Haiti more severely than they do in the U.S.

Similar to these women workers in Haiti, communist women in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) lend us the tools of how to fight. Women workers—who lead fights against police terror, exploitative landlords, and bosses—are the ones that should be celebrated during International Women's Day, not commercialized petty increases in wages or the election of women to a government who will in turn uphold the super exploitation of international working class women. Reformist solutions, such as closing the gender wage gap, will not suffice to end sexism. Under capitalism, they will only create more incentives for individuals to strive in their own self-interest. Only by eliminating the wage system can we bring an end to sexism. Only then will the profit system's dogma—"Every man or woman for themselves"—be replaced by the communist principle, "To each according to need." Only then will collective behavior overcome the selfish me-first thinking enshrined by capitalism.

A world led by PLP

Progressive Labor Party's deep commitment to seeing a world beyond the shallow gaze of identity politics is one of the tenets of our Party's line. Working women's power will be self-evident in a communist world, as they will be giving leadership in the fight against sexism. In a world led by millions of communists in the PLP, we have the basis to live an egalitarian life free from capitalist chains. ✪

History behind International Working Women's Day

IWWD first began in New York as "Women's Day," organized by the Socialist Party of America. In 1909, it became a commemoration of the 1908 strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. In the 1910 international meeting of communist and socialist leaders, known as the Second International, women members pushed to establish an International Women's Day. By 1911, more than a million workers were celebrating IWWD. Antisexist struggle continues to make it an historic day for all workers, women and men.

During Czarist Russia, the struggle for working-class women became synonymous with the open call for overthrowing the government. During World War I, the Russian Bolsheviks made IWWD a demonstration of women workers against imperialism. On March 8, 1917, the women of St. Petersburg sparked and led the February Revolution, which in turn paved the way for the October revolution and the first workers' state.

When our class is going to celebrate the legacy of working women throughout history, it is our role as communists to push for a world organized by and for women workers.

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the **Friday evening of March 11.** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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